

Gen. Holmes Honored at Arsenal Party for Army Promotion

Tribute paid to Brig. Gen. Joel Holmes last night by more than 125 persons who attended a dinner party at the Joliet Arsenal in celebration of his recent promotion, was acknowledged humbly by the army man as he preside his fellow workers.

"These stars on my shoulder were made possible by the contribution of all of you," he told the staff members and employes of the arsenal and the Office of the Field Director of Ammunition Plants.

Holmes is commanding officer of the OFDAP, having jurisdiction over more than 60 ammunition units in the United States.

"I HAVE FOUND a wonderful friendship in this part of the country and treasure the friends I have made here and in Joliet," he commented. "I have had a most pleasant relationship here and hope to be with you for a long time to come."

A veteran of almost 33 years service with the army, he was graduated from West Point as a lieutenant in July, 1917. During World War I, he served for 10 months in France as adjutant in an anti-aircraft battalion. During World War II, he went to England in May, 1943 and subsequently served thruout the ETO for 28 months.

HIS PROMOTION to the rank of brigadier general in the ordnance department, one of the few generalship posts in that division, came in recognition of his super-

ior handling of the Office of the Field Director of Ammunition Plants.

When he returned from overseas duty in December, 1945, he was assigned as chief of the Chicago Ordnance division, a role he retained until September, 1946, when he was given the important job as head of all ammunition plants in the country. He is a native of Forked River, N. J., born on Aug. 24, 1892.

Two years ago, Holmes leadership and ability were recognized by the British government, with the King of England conferring him an honorary officership. He also wears several medals for his service with the army, including the Legion of Merit, the Soldier's medal for gallantry, and the Bronze Star medal for bravery. He was in the Normandy and Northern France campaigns.

THE DINNER in honor of Holmes was planned by his staff members and several officers and employes at the arsenal, with Allan R. Hocking, training officer at the OFDAP, as general chairman. Others assisting were E. J. Cottrell, chief inspector; Maj. O. M. Hirsch, executive officer; Lt. Col. T. L. Gaines, chief of the safety and security division; Maj. M. J. Bruedigam, chief of administration, and J. N. Pearre, chief of operations and engineers.

In addition to the officers and employes, leaders of Joliet and Wilmington attended the ban-

quet honoring the general. These included Walter O. Herschbach, representing Joliet Rotary; Kent Bosworth, Kiwanis; Ed Newman, Lions; Mayor Arthur O. Janke, Police Chief Ervin Boe, and Commissioner William E. Meade, of Joliet; Mayor Ed Carey of Wil-

mington; Dr. and Mrs. Charles Willson, and Mr. and Mrs. Noble West, with Dr. Willson presiding and Mr. West secretary of Wilmington Rotary, and Mr. and Mrs. James Dorsey, with Mr. Dorsey representing the Chamber of Commerce at Wilmington.